

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 23, 31 and 35 as indicated below. Please also cancel Claims 27 and 28 and add new Claims 41-45.

Claims 1-22 (**Canceled**).

23. (**Currently amended**): A method for controlling battery power comprising the acts of:

selectively providing a first external power source or a second external power source to a device coupled to a system power terminal;

coupling an internal battery to the system power terminal via a series-connected bi-directional transistor;

sensing a voltage difference between the system power terminal and a positive terminal of the internal battery;

generating a feedback control signal based on the voltage difference and a voltage level at a control terminal of the bi-directional transistor;

translating the feedback control signal into a linearly adjustable voltage for driving the bi-directional transistor;

determining a charging mode of operation when the voltage difference indicates that the system power terminal has a higher voltage than the positive terminal of the internal battery by a first predefined amount;

charging the internal battery by linearly regulating the bi-directional transistor with [[a]] the linearly adjustable voltage at [[a]] the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor to conduct a charging current in a first direction from the system power terminal to [[a]] the positive battery terminal of the internal battery during [[a]] the charging mode;

determining a discharging mode of operation when the voltage difference indicates that the system power terminal has a lower voltage than the positive terminal of the internal battery by a second predefined amount; and

discharging the internal battery by linearly regulating the bi-directional transistor with the linearly adjustable voltage at the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor to conduct a discharging current in a second direction from the positive battery terminal

of the internal battery to the system power terminal during [[a]] the discharging mode, wherein the level of current provided to the internal battery during the charging mode or current supplied by the internal battery during the discharging mode varies with the level of the linearly adjustable voltage at the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor.

24. **(Original):** The method of Claim 23, further comprising the acts of:
sensing a supply current from the second external power source; and
linearly adjusting the charging current to prevent the supply current from exceeding a predefined threshold.

25. **(Original):** The method of Claim 23, wherein the impedance of the bi-directional transistor varies to limit the level of the charging current or the discharging current.

26. **(Original):** The method of Claim 23, wherein the impedance of the bi-directional transistor varies inversely with the discharging current level during the discharging mode.

27. **(Canceled).**

28. **(Canceled).**

29. **(Original):** The method of Claim 23, wherein the discharging mode occurs in response to a discharge command.

30. **(Canceled).**

31. **(Currently amended):** A method of controlling battery power, the method comprising:

selectively providing an external primary power source and an external secondary power source to a system power terminal of a device with an internal battery;

coupling the internal battery to the system power terminal using a bi-directional transistor with a control terminal;

generating a feedback control signal based on a voltage at the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor and a voltage difference between the system power terminal and a positive terminal of the internal battery;

determining whether the bi-directional transistor operates in a charging mode or a discharging mode based on the voltage difference between the system power terminal and the positive terminal of the internal battery;

generating a linearly adjustable voltage based on the feedback control signal; and

driving the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor with ~~[[a]]~~ the linearly adjustable voltage to regulate current conducted by the bi-directional transistor to charge the internal battery during ~~[[a]]~~ the charging mode and to discharge the internal battery during ~~[[a]]~~ the discharging mode, wherein the level of current provided to the internal battery during the charging mode or current supplied by the internal battery during the discharging mode is determined by the level of the linearly adjustable voltage at the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor.

32. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 31, wherein the bi-directional transistor disconnects the internal battery from the system power terminal during a sleep mode.

33. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 31, wherein the external primary power source is an AC adapter and the external secondary power source is a USB power interface.

34. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 31, wherein the external secondary power source is automatically disconnected when the external primary power source is connected.

35. **(Currently amended):** The method of Claim 31 further comprising:
sensing current supplied by the external secondary power source to generate a current sensed signal;
comparing the current sensed signal to a threshold value; and
generating an overriding signal to generate the linearly adjustable voltage for the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor so as to limit a charging current to a predefined level when the current sensed signal exceeds the threshold value.

36. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 31, wherein the bi-directional transistor is a field effect transistor and the control terminal is a gate terminal.

37. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 31, wherein the bi-directional transistor is a P-channel MOSFET with a configurable body contact, the configurable body contact is coupled to the system power terminal during the charging mode, and the configurable body contact is coupled to the internal battery during the discharging mode.

38. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 37, further comprising using a comparator with inputs coupled across the bi-directional transistor to sense a voltage polarity of

the bi-directional transistor and an output to control connections for the configurable body contact.

39. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 37, wherein the configurable body contact connects to a channel terminal with a relatively higher voltage during a shutdown mode to prevent current flow in a body diode and thereby fully disconnecting the internal battery from the system power terminal.

40. **(Previously presented):** The method of Claim 23, wherein the bi-directional transistor fully disconnects the internal battery from the system power terminal during a disable mode.

41. **(New):** The method of Claim 23, further comprising the acts of:
sensing a supply current from the second external source;
comparing the sensed supply current with a reference current level; and
generating an error signal to override the feedback control signal and translating the error signal into the linearly adjustable voltage for driving the bi-directional transistor when the sensed supply current is greater than the reference current level.

42. **(New):** The method of Claim 41, wherein the reference current level is selectable from at least two different values.

43. **(New):** The method of Claim 23, wherein the bi-directional transistor is a P-channel MOSFET with a configurable body contact.

44. **(New):** A method for controlling battery power, the method comprising the acts of:

coupling a battery to a system power terminal via a series-connected bi-directional transistor;

detecting a voltage difference between the system power terminal and a positive terminal of the battery;

generating a feedback control signal based on the voltage difference and a voltage at a control terminal of the bi-directional transistor;

generating a linearly variable voltage based on the feedback control signal to drive the bi-directional transistor;

applying the linearly variable voltage to the control terminal of the bi-directional transistor to charge or to discharge the battery, wherein the voltage difference between the system power terminal and the positive terminal of the battery determines whether the bi-directional transistor operates in a charging mode or a discharging mode, and the feedback control signal determines the level of current conducted by the bi-directional transistor.

45. (New): The method of Claim 44, wherein the bi-directional transistor has a configurable body contact that is connected to the system power terminal during the charging mode and connected to the positive terminal of the battery during the discharging mode, and wherein a switching diode is coupled across the bi-directional transistor to improve battery response during the discharging mode.